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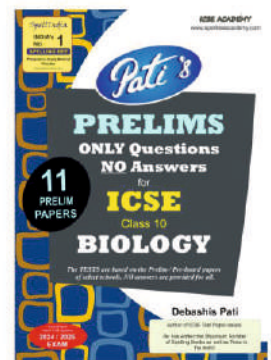
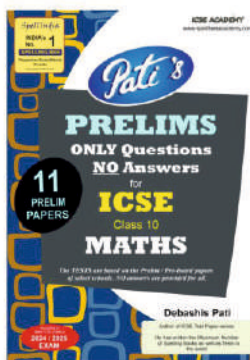
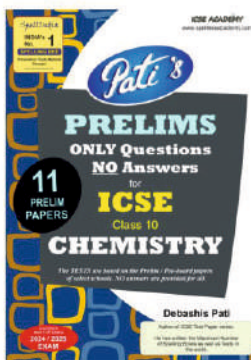
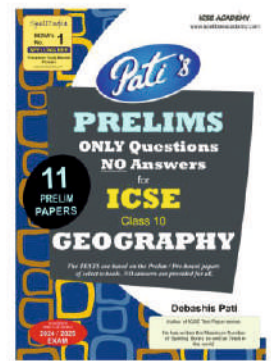
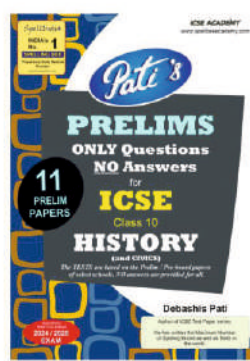
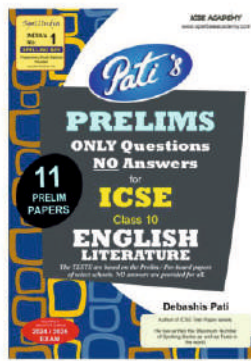
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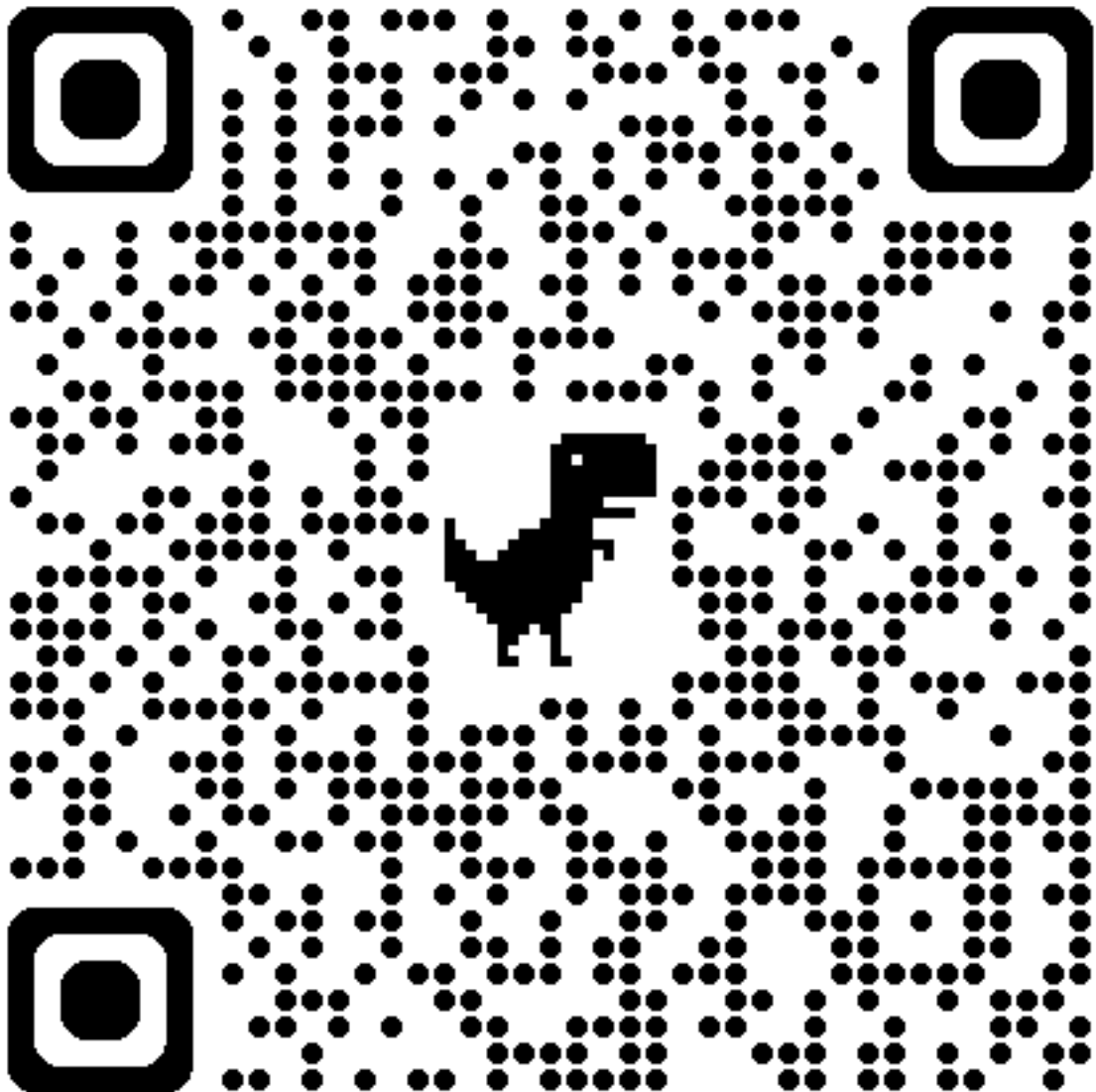




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## QUESTION PAPER 11

### SECTION B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

#### DRAMA

(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

Pre Preliminary Exams Std X English Literature

#### Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Brutus: Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself  
Are much condemn'd to have an itching palm,  
To sell and mart your offices for gold to undeservers**

- i. What does Brutus mean by 'you wronged yourself to write in such a case'? What is Cassius' reaction to Brutus' remarks about bribes? What two questions does Brutus ask now? [3]
- ii. As Cassius calls out to Antony and Octavius, what does he tell them to do? Why? [3]
- iii. What effect does this outburst of Cassius have on Brutus? What does he say? What explanation does Cassius now give for his temper? [3]
- iv. What sorrow is Brutus bearing? 'No more, I pray you' what does it reveal about Brutus? [3]
- v. What reasons does Cassius give for thinking it is not advisable to meet the enemy? What does this scene reveal about Cassius? [4]

#### Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Brutus: Are yet two Romans living such as these?  
The last of all the Romans, fare thee well!  
It is impossible that ever Rome  
Should breed thy fellow. Friends, I owe more tears  
To this dead man than you shall see me pay—**

- i. Who are the *two Romans*? How does Brutus pay tribute to them? What does Brutus exclaim about Caesar when he sees the dead bodies of these *two Romans*? [3]
- ii. Why does Brutus say *I owe more tears To this dead man than you shall see me pay*? Where does he propose to send the bodies of the two Romans? Why? [3]
- iii. Explain: *O hateful Error, Melancholy's child*. Why do the words *Error* and *Melancholy* begin with capital letters? [3]
- iv. Explain Antony's eulogy pronounced over the corpse of Brutus [3]
- v. In what ways did the spirit of Caesar ultimately triumph and fulfil its vengeance? [4]

**SECTION C**

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section)

**PROSE- SHORT STORIES**

(Treasure Chest - A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Martin's father worked at home. He wanted to know why Martin was out of breath. "Why didn't you take the elevator?" he asked, frowning at Martin**

- i. Why was Martin out of breath? Describe the stairs of Martin's apartment [3]
- ii. Explain what happened one morning when the elevator stopped at the fourteenth floor? [3]
- iii. Did Martin confide his fears to anyone? If so, to whom and what was the result? [3]
- iv. Martin was a little relieved even after his temporary physical disability. Explain [3]
- v. What do you feel about the relationship between Martin and his father? Do you think your father would have behaved in the same way if you had done what Martin did? [4]

Question 5

Read the extract from Ray Bradbury's story *The Pedestrian* given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Mr Leonard Mead would pause, cock his head, listen, look, and march on, his feet making no noise on the lumpy walk.**

- i. What does the '*buckling concrete walk*' signify? What would Leonard Mead do at an intersection? What is the month and the year mentioned in the story? [3]
- ii. Who are the *grey phantoms*? Why are they so called? [3]
- iii. What is Mead's shadow compared to? Explain the significance of the Arizona desert in the context of the story. [3]
- iv. What is the significance of the police car in the story? How would having a wife be convenient for Leonard Mead? [3]

v. How does Leonard Mead stand out like a sore thumb ? What message does the story convey about the potential future impact of modern gadgets on society? [4]

**SECTION D**

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

**POETRY**

(Treasure Chest - A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

**Question 6**

Read the extract from the poem *A Considerable Speck* by Robert Frost and answer the questions that follow:

**This was no dust speck by my breathing blown,  
But unmistakably a living mite  
With inclinations it could call its own**

- Name and explain the figure of speech used in the title of the poem. How was the poet able to identify the speck? [3]
- What do you understand by 'unmistakably' and 'inclinations'? How did the mite behave just after the extract? [3]
- What does 'suspicion of my pen' imply? What was 'not yet dry' and what does this word mean? [3]
- 'Yet must have had a set of them complete' Justify the use of 'yet' in this line. What is referred to by a set of them? Discuss the character traits of the mite [3]
- Explain: *Collectivistic regimenting love*. Analyse the speaker's decision to let the mite live. What does this reveal about his character? [4]

**Question 7**

Read the extract from the poem *The Power of Music* by Sukumar Ray and answer the questions that follow:

**When summer comes, we hear the hums Bhisma Lochan Sharma  
You catch his strain on hill and plain from Delhi down to Burma  
He sings as though he's staked his life, he sings as though he's hell-bent;**

- What does 'strain' mean here? What does *hell-bent* mean? Name and explain the figure of speech used in the above extract [3]
- How did the people react when they heard his song? [3]

Pre Preliminary Exams Std X English Literature

- iii. Explain the condition of the animals and fish after hearing Bhishma Lochan Sharma ? [3]
- iv. Does the condition of the people and the animals affect Bhishma Lochan Sharma ? What character traits would you associate with him? [3]
- v. How did the world get *the golden gift of silence*? Suggest an alternate title for the poem and give your reasons for doing so [4]
- .....

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**Section B**

**(Answer one or more questions from this section)**

**Drama**

**(Julius Caesar)**

**Q.2) Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below:**

**[16]**

**Brutus- Words before blows: is it so, countrymen?**

**Octavius- Not that we love words better, as you do.**

**Brutus- Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.**

**i. Where does the scene take place? In what situation do the speakers exchange these words?**

**(3)**

X

- iv. What role does the bridge play in connecting the two worlds? (3)  
v. What universal truth about life and death does the poem express? (4)

Q.5) Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below: [16]

But Bhisma's soared beyond our reach, howe'er  
We plead and grumble;  
The welkin weeps to hear his screech, and mighty  
mansions tumble.

- i. Who are 'we'? Why are they begging and pleading? (3)  
ii. Explain: (a) Welkin weeps (3)  
(b) Screech (3)  
(c) Mighty mansions tumble (3)  
iii. Who saves them? How? (3)  
iv. How is the world granted the 'golden gift of silence'? Why is the silence called 'golden'? (3)  
v. How does SuKumar Ray highlight the underlying humor and satire? What does it point out? (4)

**Section D**

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

**Prose**

(Treasure Chest)

Q.6) Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below: [16]

Everybody knows what a photographer is like.

- i. Why does the narrator say the above words? Describe the photographer. (3)  
ii. How did the narrator pass his time waiting at the studio? (3)  
iii. What was stereotypical about what the narrator read at the studio? (3)  
iv. What did the author want to symbolise by leaving the narrator anonymous? (3)  
v. If the story were written in modern times with selfies and digital filters, how might the theme of self- image be portrayed differently? (4)

Q.7) Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below: [16]

He came to the cloverleaf intersection which stood silent where two main highways crossed the town.

- i. Who is he? Where is he? What year is it? (3)  
ii. How does the narrator explain the contrast on the street during the day? (3)  
iii. What imagery does the narrator use to describe the scene of the highway during

night? Mention two examples.

(3)

iv. How does Ray Brardbury depict the future society in the lesson "The Pedestrian"?

(3)

v. How is Leonard Mead portrayed as a symbol of individuality?

(4)

\*\*\*\*\*



**SECTION B**  
**DRAMA – JULIUS CAESAR**

**Question 2:**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Pindarus : Titinius is enclosed round about

With horsemen, that make to him on the spur;  
Yet he spurs on. Now they are almost on him;  
Now, Titinius! now some light; O, he lights too;  
He's ta'en; [shout] and, hark! they shout for joy.

- What did Cassius order Pindarus to do a little earlier and why? What was Cassius' reaction to the information provided by Pindarus? [3]
- Describe the events that took place in the beginning of the scene and Cassius' mood that prompted Cassius' earlier reaction in the interpretation of Pindarus' report. [3]
- Explain the reference to the eagles, ravens, crows and kites and their significance with respect to Cassius' mood in this act. [3]
- What does Cassius remind Pindarus of immediately after the above mentioned extract? What does Cassius instruct him to do and how? [3]
- A little later, when Titinius and Messala enter the scene, how does Titinius describe the death of Cassius? What explanation does Messala give for Cassius' death? [4]

**Question 3:**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Cassius: Where's Antony?

Trebonius: Fled to his house amaz'd  
men, wives and children stare, cry out and run  
As it were doomsday.

- Which event is referred to as 'the doomsday'? Quote the lines by Cinna and Cassius which they proclaimed about the streets after the 'doomsday'. [3]
- Whom does Brutus address after the above mentioned extract? What does he tell them? What are Casca and Brutus' opinions in this matter? [3]
- What suggestion does Brutus now make to the other conspirators? Explain its significance. [3]
- Who enters the scene a little later? What does 'he' say? [3]
- According to you, which part of this scene is more dramatic and why? Explain with close reference to the text. [4]

**SECTION C**  
**TREASURE CHEST – A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES**

**Question 4:**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Like all this business to do with my legs, I have always wanted to tell them not to worry. I mean Nara and my mother. That it did not have to be an issue for my two favourite people to fight over.

- What was the regular, repeated discussion Nana and Maami engaged in about Adjoa's legs? Explain. [3]
- 'But Adjoa has legs except that they are too thin.' How does Nana continue with this discussion? What does it highlight about her character trait? [3]
- What always happens when Adjoa tells Nana something after having taken a long time to figure out what she wants to say? Describe Nana's reaction. [3]
- In the climax, what did Nana say about 'thin legs'? Do you think Nana's character has undergone a transformation? Highlight with suitable justification. [3]
- How would you as a teenage boy/girl with access to digital information and formal education actively challenge and dismantle societal myths thereby fostering equitable gender expectations within your homes and wider communities? Elucidate with close reference to the story. [4]

**Question 5:**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up

- What was M.Hamel's immediate response? [3]
- What was Franz thinking before he was called by M.Hamel to recite the rule of the participle? [3]
- What did M.Hamel speak about the French language? Why do you think he spoke so to the class? [3]
- Why did Franz think that the school was as quiet as Sunday morning? Describe the auditory images used in this context. [3]
- With close reference to the story, list out any four instances- actions/reactions of M.Hamel that portrays the emotional turmoil he went through on the day of the last lesson. [4]

**SECTION D****TREASURE CHEST – A COLLECTION OF POEMS****Question 6:**

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

These perturbations, this perpetual jar  
Of earthly wants and aspirations high,  
Come from the influence of an unseen star,  
An undiscovered planet in our sky.

- Explain the metaphor used in the first two lines of the given extract. [3]
- According to you, the 'undiscovered planet' is a symbol of hope or a symbol of torment? Justify your answer with close reference to the text. [3]
- Explain with three suitable pieces of evidence from the poem to conclude that the house mentioned in the poem was haunted. [3]

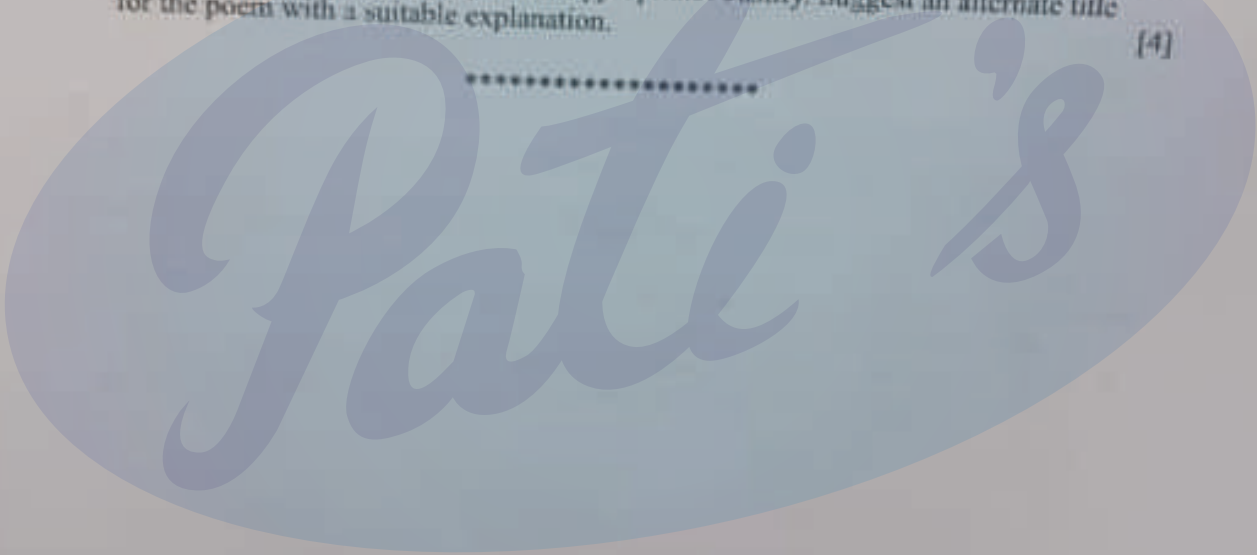
- d) Explain the central theme of the poem. [3]
- e) The poem concludes with the metaphor of the 'floating bridge of light'. Explain the metaphor. Does the bridge stabilize the 'perturbation' or does it merely provide a temporary pathway across 'the dark abyss'? Justify. [4]

**Question 7:**

**Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:**

The bullock-carts are overturned, and horses  
lie the roadside;  
But Bhishma Lochan, unconcerned goes  
booming out his broadside.

- a) What image from the world of nature is depicted later to highlight the effect of Bhishma's singing? [3]
- b) Explain the meaning of the word 'broadside'. How were the people affected by it? [3]
- c) Who grants the world 'the golden gift of silence' and how? [3]
- d) How did the people plead Bhishma to stop singing? Quote the lines from the poem. What do their reactions signify? [3]
- e) Do you think the title of the poem is appropriate? Justify. Suggest an alternate title for the poem with a suitable explanation. [4]



**SECTION B**

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)  
**DRAMA** (Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

**Question 2**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Caesar**

*Et tu, Brute? — Then fall, Caesar!*

*[Dies. The Senators and People retire in confusion]*

**Cinna**

*Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!*

*Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets!*

**Cassius**

*Some to the common pulpits, and cry out*

*'Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!'*

- (i) What does Cinna call for, after the death of Caesar? Why do the senators and people retire in confusion? [3]
- (ii) Why does Caesar mention Brutus particularly, when many others stab him? What does the line 'Et tu, Brute! Then fall, Caesar!' reveal about Caesar's feelings? [3]
- (iii) How does Brutus address the conspirators immediately after the murder? What was the intention of Brutus, behind this address? [3]
- (iv) How does Cassius justify the killing of Caesar after the assassination? What does it reveal about the character of Cassius? What does Brutus mean by 'ambition's debt is paid'? [3]
- (v) Enumerate the condition laid down by Brutus on Antony before the latter was allowed to speak at Caesar's funeral. How did Antony prove that he could be both a coward and a flatterer? [4]

**Question 3**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Messala,**

*This is my birthday; as this very day*

*Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala:*

*Be thou my witness that, against my will,*

*As Pompey was, am I compell'd to set*

- (i) Where are Cassius and Messala at this moment? What is the significance of Cassius mentioning that it is his birthday? [3]
- (ii) In what way does Cassius's outlook here contrast with Brutus's attitude towards the battle? [3]
- (iii) Why does Cassius use the phrase "against my will"? Bring out the irony hidden in this. [3]
- (iv) What strange events does Cassius describe in this dialogue? In what way are they affecting him? [3]
- (v) What happens to Cassius at the end of this scene? How does this highlight the theme of free will vs fate? [4]

### SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

#### PROSE-SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest-A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

##### Question 4

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's story, 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions given below:

**"He turned back on a side street, circling around toward his home. He was within a block of his destination when the lone car turned a corner quite suddenly and flashed a fierce white cone of light upon him. He stood entranced, not unlike a night moth, stunned by the illumination, and then drawn toward it."**

- (i) Who stood upon the corner of an intersection? What did he dearly love to do? Mention what he saw during these outings? [3]
- (ii) Why was he intercepted by the police just a block away from his home? In what way was the police force of 2053 different from that you see today? [3]
- (iii) State the three aspects that the police car interrogated Mead about. [3]
- (iv) What reasons does the protagonist give to the police for being out in the night? Why are the police not convinced? What was the outcome? [3]
- (v) How does Ray Bradbury's "The Pedestrian" serve as a cautionary tale about the dangers of technological dependence and its impact on human connection and creativity? [4]

##### Question 5

Read the extract from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story, 'The Girl Who Can' given below and answer the questions that follow:

**'According to the older boys and girls, the distance between our little village and the small town is about five kilometres. I don't know what five kilometres mean. They always complain about how long it is to walk to school and back. But to me, we live in our village, and walking those kilometres didn't matter. School is nice.'**

- (i) How is the narrator, 'I', different from the other boys and girls of the village? What do Nana and Maami say about school? [3]
- (ii) What is Nana's ideal of a perfect woman? How does this view affect her opinion of Adjoa? [3]
- (iii) Although Nana is critical of Adjoa's legs, she is among Adjoa's favourites. Identify three ways how Adjoa expresses her love and warmth towards Nana. [3]
- (iv) How did Nana's behaviour change from the time Adjoa was selected as a runner to represent her school at the district sports meet? How would you justify Nana's action? [3]
- (v) Discuss the contrasting characters of Nana and Adjoa's mother—the two women who had the most influence on Adjoa. How does each shape Adjoa's understanding of herself? [4]

**SECTION D**

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

**POETRY**

(Treasure Chest-A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

**Question 6**

Read the extract from Maya Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall' given below and answer the questions that follow:

***Our senses, restored, never  
to be the same, whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed.  
We can be. Be and be  
better. For they existed.***

- (i) Who are 'they' in the above extract? What does the repetition of 'They existed' emphasise? [3]
- (ii) How does the poet portray time as a healer? What process does one go through before reaching the stage of healing? [3]
- (iii) Explain the line: We are not so much maddened as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves. [3]
- Identify the figure of speech used in this line.
- (iv) What do we remember when great trees fall? What happens to our reality when great souls die? How do our souls wizen? [3]
- (v) How does the stanza convey a sense of loss and emptiness in our minds? [4]

**Question 7**

Read the following extract from H. W. Longfellow's poem, 'Haunted Houses' and answer the questions given below:

***These perturbations, this perpetual jar  
Of earthly wants and aspirations high,  
Come from the influence of an unseen star  
An undiscovered planet in our sky.***

- (i) According to the poet, what kind of houses are haunted? Why does the poet call the phantoms 'harmless'? [3]
- (ii) How is the poet's experience with the phantoms different from the stranger at the fireside? [3]
- (iii) What do you mean by 'perturbations'? What does the reference to an "unseen star" symbolize? [3]
- (iv) What are the two instincts the poet mentions? What is the purpose of these instincts? [3]
- (v) How does the poet describe the spirit world? What kind of imagery has the poet used in the last two lines of the extract? [4]

**SECTION B**

*(Answer one or more questions in this Section.)*

**DRAMA**

*(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)*

**Question 2**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Brutus**

*Well, to our work alive. What do you think  
Of marching to Philippi presently?*

**Cassius**

*I do not think it good.*

**Brutus**

*Your reason?*

*Pati's*

- Where does this conversation take place and what is the situation? Why does Cassius think that marching to Philippi is not a good idea? [3]
- (ii) Earlier, what disagreement arose between Brutus and Cassius and how did it affect their relationship? [3]
- (iii) What metaphorical reference does Brutus allude to, in order to overrule Cassius' reasoning about not marching to Philippi? How does Brutus' decision to march to Philippi reflect both his strength and his tragic flaw? [3]
- (iv) Bring out the three reasons for Cassius complying with Brutus' suggestion of marching to Philippi. [3]
- (v) Discuss one significant character trait each of Brutus and Cassius, as depicted in Act IV Scene 3, by citing appropriate examples from the scene to justify your answer. [4]

### Question 3

#### Cassius

*A peevish schoolboy, worthless of such honour,  
Join'd with a masker and a reveller.*

#### Antony

*Old Cassius still!*

- (i) Who was Cassius referring to in the given extract? Give more information on the practice connected to the term, *masker*. Why did Cassius comment on the person in this manner? [3]
- (ii) Mention the customary pre-combat ritual during medieval times and briefly explain it. In the earlier part of the scene, to what does Cassius liken Antony's words during their exchange and how does this analogy illuminate Cassius' perception of Antony's character? [3]
- (iii) By giving examples from the same scene, what imagery does Antony use to depict the betrayal of the conspirators' actions during Caesar's assassination? According to Antony, who was the most cowardly of them all and what was his decisive act? [3]
- (iv) How does the reference to *the cause* at Philippi highlight the conflict between the motives of the opposing leaders? What does Octavius mean by, *if arguing make us sweat, / The proof of it will turn to redder drops*? [3]
- (v) What does Antony's statement, *Old Cassius still* imply? Do you agree with Antony's opinion? Support your answer with any three examples from Acts III to V of the play, *Julius Caesar*. [3]

SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

PROSE – SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

**Question 4**

Read the following extract from the short story, *The Pedestrian* and answer the questions that follow:

*He would stand upon the corner of an intersection and peer down long moonlit avenues of sidewalk in four directions, deciding which way to go, but it really made no difference; he was alone in this world of A.D. 2053, or as good as alone...*

- (i) Who is 'He' in the above extract and what is he doing? Describe the setting in which, He, is introduced at the beginning of the story. [3]
- (ii) What does the protagonist notice when he walks for hours and miles and returns only at midnight? Bring out the comparison he perceives through his observation. [3]
- (iii) Discuss the reasons behind Mr. Mead's choice of footwear for his daily walks. [3]
- (iv) What did Mr. Mead encounter when he was within a block of his destination and how did he react? Mention the two expressions used in the narrative to describe the voice of the object he encountered and state the instructions given by the voice thereafter. [3]
- (v) By giving an illustration from the story, *The Pedestrian*, highlight the irony in Mr. Leonard Mead's arrest. [4]

**Question 5**

Read the following extract from the short story, *The Last Lesson* and answer the questions that follow:

*I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning.*

- (i) Who is the speaker and what did he observe and realise when he got to his desk without being seen? Why was the speaker apprehensive about going to school that morning? [3]
- (ii) Where was the crowd gathered and what was the general belief that the people of the town had? Explain briefly, how this belief was accurate. [3]
- (iii) Describe M. Hamel's fine Sunday clothes that he wore on the day of the last French lesson. How did Franz's attitude towards his books and M. Hamel change on that day? [3]
- (iv) Bring out the contrasting imagery between commotion and stillness in the short story, 'The Last Lesson' and what this contrast indicates. [3]
- (v) With reference to the short story, *The Last Lesson*, explain how Daudet highlights the irony of linguistic supremacy exhibited by both the Prussians and the French. Support your answer with relevant examples from the text. [3]

## SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

### POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 6

Read the following extract from Sukumar Ray's poem, *The Power of Music* and answer the questions that follow:

*He sings as though he's staked his life, he sings  
as though he's hell-bent;*

- (i) Who is the main character of the poem and how is *he* introduced at the onset of the poem? Identifying the literary device, mention how far the *strain* carried on. [3]
- (ii) How do people respond to Bhisma Lochan Sharma's powerful singing and what does their reaction suggest about the effect of his voice on them? [3]
- (iii) Explain how the poet uses vivid imagery to depict the disruptive effect of Bhisma Lochan Sharma's singing on three different animals, excluding the one mentioned towards the end of the poem. [3]
- (iv) Explain the meaning of, *The welkin weeps to hear his screech, and mighty mansions tumble.* Identify and explain two literary devices used in this line. [3]
- (v) Describe the incident that finally ends Bhisma's noisy singing and explain how it grants the surroundings with, *the golden gift of silence.* Discuss briefly how music has influenced you, both emotionally and mentally. [4]

#### Question 7

Read the following extract from the poem, *A Considerable Speck* and answer the questions that follow:

*It paused as with suspicion of my pen,  
And then came racing wildly on again  
To where my manuscript was not yet dry;*

- (i) What does the narrator initially think *it* is and what does he discover upon closer observation? How does the setting emphasise the existence of this entity and what tone does the speaker adopt while describing it? [3]
- (ii) Give three instances from the poem to demonstrate that the *speck* had its *inclinations.* [3]
- (iii) What was the misconception that the speaker had about *it*? In what way did *it* demonstrate its intelligence through its actions that it *didn't want to die*? [3]
- (iv) Explain the ideology that the narrator criticised. Throw light on the fate that the narrator accorded the mite. What does this gesture of the narrator reflect about him? [3]
- (v) Analyse the element of satire in the poem, *The Considerable Speck* and justify the suitability of its title in conveying the message of the poet. [3]

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**SECTION B**

*(Answer one or more questions from this section)*

**DRAMA**

**(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)**

**Question 2.**

Read the extract and answer the following questions given below.

**Antony**

*O you flatterers!*

**Cassius**

*Flatterers? Now Brutus thank yourself:*

*This tongue had not offended so to-day,*

*If Cassius might have ruled.*

- (i) Where does this conversation take place? What two examples does Antony give Cassius and Brutus of their flattery? (3)
- (ii) What suggestion did Cassius make concerning this person in an earlier scene in Rome? For what reason? With what argument had Brutus overruled Cassius at that time? (3)
- (iii) On what other occasion, outside Rome, was Cassius overruled by Brutus? (3)
- (iv) What do Brutus and Cassius agree on in case they face defeat? Did they stick to decisions later in the play? (3)
- (v) Briefly describe the main events of that memorable day. (4)

**Question 3**

Read the extract and answer the following questions given below.

**Brutus**

*As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate,*

at it; as he was valiant, I honour him; but, as he

ambitious, I salue him. There is tears for his love; joy

For his fortune, honour for his valour, and death for his ambition.

Who is here so base that would be a bondman?

If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so

Rude that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him

Have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his

Country? If any speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

- (i) What had been the theme of Brutus' speech? Give two examples from his speech to show that he tried to move them by his reasoning? (3)
- (ii) What is meant by bondman? Whom does Brutus presume to have offended? What does Brutus indicate about one's love for one's country? (3)
- (iii) Give one incident to prove that Caesar loved Brutus. Why then did Brutus kill Caesar? (3)
- (iv) What reply did the listeners give to Brutus to the last sentence in the extract? How did listeners react to Brutus speech? (3)
- (v) Basing your choice on the speech of Brutus state whether he was a philosopher or a political leader. Give two examples from his speech to justify your choice. (4)

### SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

#### PROSE- SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest – A collection of ICSE Short stories and Poems)

#### Question 4

Read the extract from Alphonse Daudet's short story, 'The Last Lesson' given below and answer the questions that follow:

How it must have broken his heart to leave it all, poor man; to hear his sister moving about in the room above, packing their trunks! For they must leave the country next day.

But he had the courage to hear every lesson to the very last. After the writing, we had a lesson in history, and then the babies chanted their ba, be, bi, bo, bu. Down there at the back of the room old Hauser had put on his spectacles and, holding his primer in both hands, spelled the letters with them. You could see that he, too, was crying; his voice trembled with emotion, and

so funny to hear him that we all wanted to laugh and cry. Ah, how well I remember that last lesson!

- (i) Who is referred to by Franz as the poor man? According to Franz, what must have broken the poor man's heart? Why were they supposed to leave the country? (3)
- (ii) Why did he hear every lesson to the very last? What did it reveal about him? (3)
- (iii) Who was old Hauser? Why was he present in the class? (3)
- (iv) Why did old Hauser's voice tremble with emotion? Why did the listeners want to laugh and cry at the same time? (3)
- (v) Franz said, 'Ah, how well I remember it, that last lesson!' Explain briefly what was the last lesson. (4)

### Question 5

Read the extract from William Sleator's short story, 'The Elevator' given below and answer the questions that follow:

He looked at her for a moment. She had large fleshy cheeks and no chin, just a huge mass of neck. Her blue eyes were tiny but sharp. They seemed to be boring into Martin's face. Martin looked away, but the woman didn't turn around. Was she still looking at him? He glanced at her quickly, then looked away again. She was still watching him. He wanted to close his eyes, he wanted to turn around and stare into the corner, but how could he?

- (i) Who is 'She' referred to in the extract? Where is she? Describe her appearance. (3)
- (ii) According to Martin's view, how was the lady different from other passengers who used the elevator? (3)
- (iii) Explain briefly how did 'she' look at Martin? How did Martin react to it? (3)
- (iv) Why did Martin want to close his eyes? Which characteristic trait about Martin is revealed from the extract? (3)
- (v) Who, according to you was 'she' - as visitor or a resident of the building or a figment of Martin's imagination? Give reason to justify your answer. (4)

## SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

### POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A collection of ICSE Short stories and Poems)

### Question 6

Read the extract from Leigh Hunt's poem, 'The Glove and The Lions' given below and answer the questions that follow:

*She dropped her glove to prove his love, then looked at him and smiled*

*He bowed, and in a moment leaped among the lions wild:  
The leap was quick, return was quick, he has regained his place,  
Then threw the glove, but not with love, right in the lady's face.  
"By God! said Francis, "rightly done!" and he rose from where he sat:  
"No love, "quoth he, "but vanity, sets love a task like that."*

- (i) Who is 'She' in the extract? Whose love did she want 'to prove'? Why? (3)
- (ii) What did she mean when she 'looked at him and smiled'? Which trait is exhibited by her? Is this trait desirable? Give reason to support your answer. (3)
- (iii) Identify 'He' who bowed and 'leaped among the lions'. What does this act of his say about him? (3)
- (iv) Briefly list three traits of the one who 'leaped among the lions wild', according to the extract. (3)
- (v) Briefly explain the theme of the poem as exhibited by the extract. (4)

### Question 7

Read the extract from Maya Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall' given below and answer the questions that follow:

*And when great souls die,  
After a period peace blooms,  
Slowly and always  
Irregularly. Spaces fill  
With a kind of  
Soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never  
To be the same whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed.  
We can be. Be and be  
Better. For they existed*

- (i) What happens 'after a period' following the death of a great soul? (3)
- (ii) What do you understand by 'Spaces'? How are they filled? (3)
- (iii) What do our senses whisper to us? Why? (3)
- (iv) Identify and name any two poetic devices used in the extract. (3)
- (v) Briefly explain the theme of the poem according to this extract. (3)

- iv) The murder of Cinna the poet symbolizes:
- Justice of mob
  - Tragic outcome of mob mentality
  - End of conflict
  - Triumph of Antony
- v) Who does Antony refer to as a 'barren-spirited fellow'?
- Octavius
  - Brutus
  - Lepidus
  - Cassius
- vi) Which of the following is NOT true about Brutus's treatment of Lucius in Julius Caesar Act 4 Scene 3?
- He shows concern for Lucius's rest and comfort.
  - He gently scolds Lucius for nodding off.
  - He is careful not to let Lucius break his instrument.
  - He promises to be good to Lucius if he survives.
- vii) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from Stephen Leacock's short story, 'With the Photographer'.
- The photographer asked the narrator to wait.
  - The narrator noticed the photographer's lack of enthusiasm.
  - The photographer took the narrator's head into his hands and twisted it sideways.
  - The narrator read the Ladies Companion for 1912.
- 4,2,1,3
  - 2,1,4,3
  - 2,1,3,4
  - 4,2,3,1
- viii) Select the option that shows the correct relationships between statements (1) and (2) from Stephen Leacock's short story, 'With the Photographer'.
- Statement 1: The narrator asserts, "This face is my face. It is not yours, it is mine."
- Statement 2: He wants to maintain his personal identity and resist complete manipulation by the photographer.
- Both (1) and (2) are true and (2) is the correct explanation of (1)
  - Both (1) and (2) are true and (2) is not the correct explanation of (1)
  - (1) is true and (2) is false
  - (1) is false and (2) is true
- ix) In William Sleator's short story, 'The Elevator', which of the following does NOT describe Martin?
- He is skinny and weak.
  - He is a lonely boy.
  - He is good at sports.
  - He gets bullied by his classmates.
- x) In William Sleator's short story, 'The Elevator', on which floor does Martin encounter the lady at the end?
- ninth floor
  - tenth floor
  - fourteenth floor
  - third floor
- xi) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story, 'The Girl Who Can'.

Statement 1: Adjoa feels insecure about her appearance.

Statement 2: She gains self-confidence after winning the race.

a) (1) is the result of (2)

b) (1) is the cause of (2)

c) (1) contradicts (2)

d) (1) is independent of (2)

xii) In the poem, 'Haunted Houses' what tone does the poet maintain throughout the poem?

a) Fearful and mysterious

b) Calm and reflective

c) Dark and tragic

d) Angry and resentful

xiii) In the poem, 'Haunted Houses' the phrase 'undiscovered planet in our sky' implies

a) a literal planet that astronomers have not found

b) a mysterious spiritual force influencing human life

c) the ghosts coming through bridge of light and controlling our actions

d) A scientific mystery impacting our actions

xiv) Identify the literary device used in the phrase 'horrid laughing jaws' in the poem, 'The Glove and the Lions'.

a) Metaphor

b) Oxymoron

c) Irony

d) Simile

xv) In the poem, 'The Power of Music', which among the following is NOT a theme of the poem?

a) Obliviousness to other's suffering

b) The value of silence

c) The absurdity of overconfidence

d) The soothing power of music

xvi) Which of the given options contains the figure of speech that appears in the following line from the poem, 'The Power of Music'?

With bellow answ'ring bellow

a) I wandered lonely as a cloud

b) The lion roared as it chased its prey around the jungle

c) Hope is the thing with feathers

d) Both ways taut like a tightrope-walker

### SECTION B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

#### DRAMA

(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

#### Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Antony:

O mighty Caesar! Dost thou lie so low?  
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,  
Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well.  
I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,  
Who else must be let blood, who else is rank  
If I myself, there is no hour so fit.

- i) Who are referred to as 'gentlemen' in the extract? What is meant by 'Shrunk to this little measure'? In what context does Antony say, "Who else must be let blood,"? [3]
- ii) Why does Antony say he is ready to die at this moment? What does Antony mean by 'purpled hands do reek and smoke' and what effect does it create? [3]
- iii) In the line "O Antony, beg not your death of us," how does Brutus justify Caesar's assassination to Antony? How does Brutus use the metaphor 'As fire drives out fire, so pity pity' and what assurance does he give to Antony regarding his safety? [3]
- iv) In the next scene, what does Antony mean when he says "Mischief, thou art afoot" in his funeral speech? What is the dramatic significance of this line? According to you, which aspect of Antony's speech enraged the crowd the most, and why? [3]
- v) In the lines "My credit now stands on such slippery ground / That one of two bad ways you must conceit me", what is the relevance of Antony's statement? Analyse the character traits of Antony revealed in the given scene. [4]

### Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Cassius:

Come, Antony, and young Octavius, come,  
Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius,

For Cassius is weary of the world:

Hated by one he loves; brav'd by his brother:

Check'd like a bondman; all his faults observ'd...

- i) Who does Cassius refer to as 'one he loves'? What does the phrase 'checked like a bondman' mean? Why does Cassius call upon Antony and Octavius? [3]
- ii) What is the main reason that makes Brutus angry with Cassius? What is ironical about Brutus's accusation? What does Brutus say he would rather do than get money by vile means? [3]
- iii) Explain Cassius' comparison of his heart to Pluto's mine. What does Brutus mean when he says, "O Cassius, you are yokèd with a lamb that carries anger as the flint bears fire"? What promise does Brutus make if Cassius is angry in future? [3]
- iv) What is the significance of Brutus's exclamation "How ill this taper burns! "? How does the apparition affect Brutus? What message does it convey, and mention its relevance? [3]
- v) In Julius Caesar, Act 4, Scene 2, how was Lucilius received by Brutus's friend? How does Brutus describe insincere or hollow friendship? Why is this scene important in the play? [4]

## SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

## Prose – SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

## Question 4

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow:

To enter out into that silence that was the city at eight o'clock of a misty evening in November, to put your feet upon that buckling concrete walk, to step over grassy seams and make your way, hands in pockets, through silences, that was what Mr. Leonard Mead most dearly loved to do.

- i) Where is the story set, and what does this description tell us about the setting? What does the phrase 'buckling concrete walk' and 'grassy seams' tell you about the condition of the city? [3]
- ii) Who are the 'gray phantoms' in the story? Explain the figure of speech used in the expression 'gray phantoms'. What is meant by the phrase 'tomblike buildings'? [3]
- iii) Whose shadow is compared to a hawk and why? Bring out the contrast at the 'cloverleaf intersection' between daytime and nighttime. [3]
- iv) Why is the police car described in the story is considered unusual? How does it react when it encounters the protagonist, and what is the outcome of this encounter? [3]
- v) Ray Bradbury through his story 'The Pedestrian' depicts the dangers of isolation and the absence of community. With reference to the given statement, justify the themes of dehumanization, non-conformity and nature versus the city. [4]

## Question 5

Read the following extract from Alphonse Daudet's short story, 'The Last Lesson' and answer the questions that follow:

When I passed the town hall there was a crowd in front of the bulletin-board. For last two years all our bad news had come from there- the lost battles, the draft, the orders of the commanding officer- and I thought to myself, without stopping:

"What can be the matter now?"

- i) Who is the speaker in the given extract? What does the speaker notice at the town hall? What does the bulletin-board symbolize in the story? [3]
- ii) What was the regular scene in the school, and how was it different on the day of the last lesson? Apart from the students, who else were present in the classroom that day? [3]
- iii) Which news acted as a 'thunder clap' on the speaker? Explain the use of the literary device in the expression 'thunder clap'. What is ironic about Franz's change in attitude towards his books? [3]
- iv) How was M. Hamel dressed on that particular day? What were his thoughts on the French language? How did the new copies given by M. Hamel look like? [3]
- v) The story 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet serves as a sharp and poignant reminder of the importance of not postponing learning and highlights the role of language in shaping one's identity. Justify this statement with reference to the story. [4]

## SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

## POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

## Question 6

Read the following extract from Maya Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall' and answer the questions that follow:

When great trees fall  
in forests,  
small things recoil into silence,  
their senses  
eroded beyond fear.

- i) What is the tone of the poem? What does the poet mean by 'small things recoil into silence'? What does 'great trees' represent in the poem? [3]
- ii) What happens to the air around us when a great soul dies? Explain the term 'hurtful clarity'. Why does the loss of a great soul fill us with a sense of regret? [3]
- iii) What happens to our reality when great souls die? How are our souls and minds affected by the death of great individuals? Why does the poet describe our state as 'the unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves'? [3]
- iv) How does time act as a healer after the death of great souls? What does the poet convey by the phrase 'soothing electric vibration'? Why are our senses never restored to be the same after such a loss? [3]
- v) The poem 'When Great Trees Fall' moves beyond the emptiness and sense of loss to offer hope for healing towards the end. With reference to the poem, discuss on the themes of loss and grief, and acceptance and healing. [4]

## Question 7

Read the following extract from Robert Frost's poem 'A Considerable Speck' and answer the questions that follow:

When something strange about it made me think,  
This was no dust speck by my breathing blown,  
But unmistakably a living mite  
With inclinations it could call its own.

- i) What made the speaker think that it was not a dust speck? What does the poet mean by 'with inclinations it could call its own'? Identify and explain the literary device used in the given expression. [3]
- ii) How did the mite react when it sensed the movement of the pen and afterwards? What is the relevance of the line 'Plainly with intelligence I dealt.'? [3]

[6]

- did the speaker at first think that the mite did not have feet? What made him change his stance? What did it do in the middle of the sheet and why? [3]
- iv) What does the speaker mean by 'I have none of the tenderer-than-thou / Collectivistic regimenting love,' and in what context is this statement made? [3]
- v) What decision does the speaker make at the end of the poem? How does his final action highlight the themes of intelligence and importance of individual thinking? [4]
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**Section B**

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

**DRAMA**

(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

**Question 2**

Read the extract from '*Julius Caesar*' Act 3 Scene 1, given below and answer the questions that follow:

**[16]**

Brutus: O Antony, beg not your death of us.

Though now we must appear bloody and cruel,

As, by our hands and this our present act,

You see we do, yet see you but our hands  
And this the bleeding business they have done:  
Our hearts you see not, they are pitiful;

- (i) What 'bleeding business' does Brutus refer to in the given lines?  
State any **two** reasons given by Brutus to the Roman citizens later on, for the 'present act'. [3]
- (ii) Why does Antony desire this moment for 'myself so apt to die'? [3]
- (iii) 'The evil that men do lives after them,  
The good is oft interred with their bones;  
So let it be with Caesar.'  
List any **three** distinct proofs presented by Antony before the Roman people to bring out the 'good' done by Caesar. [3]
- (iv) What does Cassius assure Antony of in this scene?  
What does he want to confirm regarding the 'compact' Antony intends to have with the conspirators and why? [3]
- (v) '...I do know but one  
That unassailable holds on his rank,  
Unshak'd of motion: and that I am he,'  
Highlighting the irony in these lines by Caesar, mention **three** reasons to justify whether Caesar deserved the tragic end he met with or not. [4]

### Question 3

Read the extract from '*Julius Caesar*' Act 4 Scene 3 given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

Cassius: Do not presume too much upon my love;  
I may do that I shall be sorry for.

Brutus: You have done that you should be sorry for.  
There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats;  
For I am arm'd so strong in honesty.  
That they pass by me as the idle wind,  
Which I respect not.

- (i) What is it that Cassius may do that he '*shall be sorry for*'?

- What does Brutus accuse Cassius of immediately after the extract? [3]
- What does this verbal exchange reveal about their relationship? [3]
- (ii) Provide **two** reasons given by Cassius for being '*awearied of the world*'.  
How does he compare Brutus' love for him with Brutus' love for Caesar at this point? [3]
- (iii) Naming the man who had described Cassius as one '*full of regard and honour*' earlier, state what had Lucilius conveyed about Cassius' changed behaviour towards him then.  
How had Brutus described Cassius then, in response? [3]
- (iv) Whom does Brutus address as '*murderous*' in this scene?  
What does Caesar's ghost promise Brutus?  
Bring out the significance of the appearance of the ghost at Sardis. [3]
- (v) 'Do not talk of him  
But as a property.'  
What is Antony's opinion of Lepidus in Act 4 Scene 1 of the play '*Julius Caesar*'?  
Bring out the changes seen in the characters of Antony, Brutus and Cassius after the assassination of Caesar. [4]

### Section C

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section.)

### PROSE- SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest- A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

Read the following extract from Alphonse Daudet's short story, '*The Last Lesson*' and answer the questions that follow: [16]

Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud,

with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning.

- (i) What was the historical decision that had brought about the change in the school environment?  
Why did Franz strive to 'get to his desk without been seen'? [3]
- (ii) What does the simile, 'as quiet as Sunday morning' signify? Describe what Franz saw when he peeped in through the window. [3]
- (iii) State **two** independent instances M. Hamel shared that were responsible for the students neglecting their language. What does this reveal about M. Hamel? [3]
- (iv) List out **three** distinct observations or thoughts that filled Franz's mind on hearing the announcement made by Hamel which denotes a shift in his perspective. [3]
- (v) What did M. Hamel say in appreciation of the French language?  
In what ways do you think M. Hamel's last lesson left a deeper impact on the students than any other regular lesson? [4]

#### Question 5

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow: [16]

"What is it now?" He asked the houses, noticing his wrist watch. "Eight- thirty P.M.? Time for a dozen assorted murders? A quiz? A revue? A comedian falling off the stage?"

Was that a murmur of laughter from within the moon-white house? He hesitated, but went on when nothing more happened.

- (i) Explaining the meaning of the word, 'revue', state the year in which this story has been set. [3]  
Why is the house described as 'moon-white'?
- (ii) Mention the adjective used by the narrator to describe the early November evening. [3]  
List out **two** activities that Leonard Mead 'most dearly loved' to engage in.
- (iii) State any **one** comparison drawn by the narrator to bring out Mead's connect with Nature. [3]  
What does he derive from Nature?  
How was it different for the other residents in the city?
- (iv) Describing the back seat of the police car, state what did it smell of. [3]  
What do you think does the car symbolise?
- (v) What danger or threat to society does this story alert us against? [4]  
Do you think Leonard Mead is a rebel or merely a victim of his times?  
Justify with **two** suitable references from the story.

#### Section D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

#### (POETRY)

(Treasure Chest- A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 6

Read the following extract from Maya Angelou's poem 'When Great Trees Fall' and answer the questions that follow: [16]

When great trees fall,  
rocks on distant hills shudder,  
lions hunker down  
in tall grasses,

and even elephants  
lumber after safety.

- (i) What kind of 'great souls' does the phrase, 'great trees' symbolise?  
Mention **one** feeling that resonates with the words, 'shudder', 'hunker down' and 'lumber after'.  
What does the poet intend to suggest by portraying the responses of 'rocks', 'lions' and 'elephants'? [3]
- (ii) Explain, in your own words, the suggestive aspect of the impact when 'small things recoil into silence' and their senses are 'eroded beyond fear'.  
What effect do the short lines employed throughout the poem create? [3]
- (iii) What happens to 'our reality' and 'our souls' when great men die?  
What does it suggest about the bereaved? [3]
- (iv) Explain the impact of 'great souls' dying on the following as portrayed in the poem:  
(a) the air around us  
(b) our eyes  
(c) our minds [3]
- (v) Elaborate on the hopeful note the poem ends with.  
Mentioning the autobiographical element, comment on the central message the poem leaves us with. [4]

**Question 7**

Read the following extract from Sukumar Ray's poem 'The Power of Music' and answer the questions that follow: [16]

When summer comes, we hear the hums  
Bhisma Lochan Sharma.  
You catch his strain on hill and plain from Delhi  
down to Burma.

- (i) Which form of poetry does the given poem belong to?  
Why does the poet claim that his music could be heard from  
'Delhi down to Burma'? [3]
- (ii) Bhisma sings as though he's 'staked his life'.  
What does it mean?  
Describe any **two** effects of his music on the people who are  
forced to listen to him. [3]
- (iii) Sukumar Ray uses vivid imagery to describe the reaction of  
various creatures to the music of Bhisma.  
Justify with close reference to any **three** non-human creatures. [3]
- (iv) Why do people plead with Bhisma Lochan to stop singing?  
How does he react to the requests made?  
What does it reveal about him? [3]
- (v) Quoting the phrase used by the poet for the billy goat, describe  
the gift it gave to the people.  
Bring out the irony in the title of the poem, '*The Power of  
Music*'. [4]

\* \* \* \* \*

SECTION B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

DRAMA (Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**BRUTUS:**

**Sheathe your dagger.**

**Be angry when you will, it shall have scope.**

**Do what you will, dishonor shall be humor.**

**O Cassius, you are yokèd with a lamb**

**That carries anger as the flint bears fire,**

**Who, much enforcèd, shows a hasty spark**

**And straight is cold again.**

- i. What does Brutus mean when he says, "Sheathe your dagger," and how does this set the tone for the rest of the passage? (3)
- ii. How does the line "Be angry when you will, it shall have scope" reflect Brutus' attitude toward Cassius' temperament? (3)
- iii. What does Brutus imply by saying "Do what you will, dishonor shall be humor"? (3)
- iv. What deeper insight into their relationship does this passage offer, particularly in the context of their roles after Caesar's death? (3)
- v. How does this passage foreshadow the eventual downfall of Brutus and Cassius? (4)

Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**CASSIUS**

**Caesar, thou art revenged,**

**Even with the sword that killed thee. [dies]**

**PINDARUS**

**So I am free. Yet would not so have been,**

**Durst I have done my will. O Cassius,**

**Far from this country Pindarus shall run,**

**Where never Roman shall take note of him.**

- i. What is the significance of Cassius' line, "Caesar, thou art revenged, Even with the sword that killed thee"? (3)

- ii. How does Cassius' death reflect the themes of guilt and misinterpretation in the play? (3)
- iii. What does the phrase "Far from this country Pindarus shall run" suggest about Pindarus' fears and intentions following Cassius' death? (3)
- iv. How does Cassius' death contribute to the overall tragic arc of the play? (3)
- v. What is the significance of the role of the sword in both Caesar's and Cassius' death in the broader moral framework of the play? (4)

### SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

#### POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 4

Read the following extract from Robert Frost's poem, 'A Considerable Speck' and answer the questions that follow:

It paused as with suspicion of my pen,  
And then came racing wildly on again  
To where my manuscript was not yet dry;  
Then paused again and either drank or smelt—  
With loathing, for again it turned to fly.

- i. What does the phrase "paused as with suspicion of my pen" suggest about the creature's behavior? (3)
- ii. How does the creature's movement change throughout the passage? (3)
- iii. What emotions or themes does the poet evoke through the creature's behavior? (3)
- iv. In what ways does the poet draw attention to small, everyday moments, and why is this important? What does this approach reflect? (3)
- v. What larger themes or ideas might the poet be exploring through this small incident? (4)

#### Question 5

Read the following extract from Sukumar Roy's poem, 'The Power of Music' and answer the questions that follow:

He sings as though he's staked his life, he sings  
as though he's hell-bent;

The people, dazed, retire amazed although they  
know it's well-meant.

They're trampled in the panic rout or languish  
pale and sickly,

And plead, 'My friend, we're near our end, oh  
stop your singing quickly!

- i. What do the phrases "staked his life" and "hell-bent" suggest about the singer's emotional state and commitment? (3)
- ii. How do the people react to the singing, and what does this reveal about its effect on them? (3)
- iii. Why do the people say, "My friend, we're near our end, oh stop your singing quickly!" and what is the tone here? (3)
- iv. How does the poet use irony to convey meaning in this poem? (3)
- v. What message might the poet be conveying about the power of art or expression through this poem? (4)

#### SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

#### PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest - A Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 6

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's story 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow:

**"That's my house," said Leonard Mead. No one answered him. The car moved down the empty river-bed streets and off away, leaving the empty streets with the empty side-walks, and no sound and no motion all the rest of the chill November night.**

- i. What does the lack of response suggest? What impression does it give about the passage? How does the mention of *the house* further add to the impression? (3)
- ii. Explain the setting with reference to "the chill November night." How the passage emphasize the dehumanizing effects of technology highlighting human connections? (3)
- iii. What might the "empty river-bed streets" symbolize in the context of the passage? (3)

- iv. Mention three phrases from the passage which contribute to the theme of isolation. (3)
- v. How does the passage highlight a dystopian future? Explain with reference to the society Leonard lives in. (4)

### Question 7

Read the following extract from Alphonse Daudet's story, 'The Last Lesson' and answer the questions that follow:

**M. Hamel mounted his chair, and, in the same grave and gentle tone which he had used to me, said, "My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive."**

- i. What announcement did M. Hamel make to the class, and how did he speak to the students? (3)
- ii. Why was it the last French lesson, and what was the political situation behind it? (3)
- iii. What does M. Hamel's tone reveal about his feelings during the announcement? (3)
- iv. How do M. Hamel's words reflect his dedication as a teacher? (3)
- v. What emotions might the students have felt after hearing M. Hamel's announcement, and why? (4)

**Section B**

(Answer **one** or **more** questions from this Section)

**DRAMA**

(**Julius Caesar** by **William Shakespeare**)

**Question 2**

Read the extract from 'Julius Caesar' Act 5, Scene 5, given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Volumnius**

*Not so, my lord.*

**Brutus**

*Nay, I am sure it is, Volumnius.*

*Thou seest the world, Volumnius, how it goes;*

*Our enemies have beat us to the pit:*

- (i) Which ghost appears to Brutus on two occasions? What warning does it give him at Sardis? What might the ghost's message given at Philippi suggest? [3]
- (ii) Who is Volumnius in relation to Brutus? What help does Brutus ask of him in this scene? Why does Brutus ask for this help? [3]
- (iii) What does Brutus mean when he says, '*I found no man but he was true to me*'? Which recent event makes him say this? [3]
- (iv) When does Antony describe Brutus as '*the noblest Roman of them all*'? Why does Antony praise him in this way? Whom is he comparing Brutus to when he says '*all*'? [3]
- (v) What does Octavius decide should be done with Brutus' body? What does this decision suggest about his impression of Brutus? [4]

### Question 3

Read the extract from 'Julius Caesar' Act 4, Scene 2, given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Cassius**

*Most noble brother, you have done me wrong.*

**Brutus**

*Judge me, you gods! Wrong I mine enemies?*

*And if not so, how should I wrong a brother?*

- (i) Where does this scene take place? Why are Brutus and Cassius there? [3]
- (ii) What attitude does Cassius demonstrate when he refers to Brutus as 'Most noble brother'? What 'wrong' is Cassius referring to, in this extract? [3]
- (iii) Why is Brutus calling upon the Gods to judge him? Why is his calling upon the Gods, an irony? [3]
- (iv) How does Brutus react after reading Cassius' letter that was delivered by Pindarus? What complaint does he share about Cassius with him? [3]
- (v) How does the quarrel between Brutus and Cassius show that the conspirators' downfall will come from within rather than from their enemies? [4]

### Section C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

### PROSE – SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Chest – A collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 4

Read the following extract from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story, 'The Girl Who Can' and answer the questions that follow:

*Like all this business to do with my legs. I have always wanted to tell them not to worry. I mean Nana and my mother. That it did not have to be an issue for my two favourite people.*

- (i) What issue is the narrator referring to when she mentions 'all this business to do with my legs'? [3]
- (ii) How does the conversation of the narrator's two favourite people reflect the orthodox views of their society? [3]
- (iii) Why does the narrator say she has always wanted to tell them not to worry? What does this reveal about her? [3]
- (iv) Discuss the relationship between Adjoa's mother and Nana using relevant factors to support your claim. [3]
- (v) How does the narrator's experience reflect modern pressures placed on children regarding their physical appearance or abilities? [4]

#### Question 5

Read the following extract from Alphonse Daudet's short story, 'The Last Lesson' and answer the questions that follow:

*"I won't scold you, little Franz; you must feel bad enough. See how it is! Every day we have said to ourselves: Bah! I've plenty of time. I'll learn tomorrow."*

- (i) How is M. Hamel dressed on the day of the final lesson? Why is his appearance meaningful in the context of the occasion? [3]
- Why does M. Hamel show greater patience than usual during the last class? [3]

- (iii) What according to M. Hamel is the *key to their prison*? Explain the symbolic meaning of this key and what its loss represents. [3]
- (iv) What does Franz compare his textbooks to? What is the reason for this comparison? [3]
- (v) The story highlights the impact of war on ordinary people. Provide two examples from the text that support this statement. [4]

### Section D

(Answer **one or more** questions from this Section)

### POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 6

Read the following extract from Robert Frost's 'A Considerable Speck' and answer the questions that follow:

*It faltered: I could see it hesitate;  
Then in the middle of the open sheet  
Cower down in desperation to accept  
Whatever I accorded it of fate.  
I have none of the tender-than- thou  
Collectivistic regimenting love  
With which the modern world is being swept.*

- (i) What actions does the tiny speck perform on the sheet of paper before the speaker realizes that it is alive? [3]
- (ii) Name and explain the figure of speech used in the lines '*It faltered: I could see it hesitate*'. [3]

- (iii) How did the mite's actions contradict the speaker's expectations of its physical and intellectual abilities? [3]
- (iv) Explain the meaning of the phrase '*collectivistic regimenting love*'. What political movement was it likely alluding to during the period when this poem was written? [3]
- (v) How does this poem convey a universal message about mindfulness? Justify with relevant references from the text. [4]

### Question 7

Read the following extract from Maya Angelou's, 'When Great Trees Fall' and answer the questions that follow:

*When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes  
light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly.  
Our eyes, briefly,  
see with  
a hurtful clarity.*

- (i) What effect does the death of great souls have on the atmosphere around us? What deeper meaning does this effect convey? [3]
- (ii) What literary device is used in the lines 'We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly/see'? What idea does the poet want to convey through this choice? [3]
- (iii) What do the eyes of the bereaved see with hurtful clarity? Why does this sudden clarity occur? [3]
- (iv) How is our memory affected after the passing of someone we love? [3]
- (v) In what ways does the poem express the despair and regret experienced by a person grieving the loss of someone dear? [4]

**SECTION B**

*(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)*

**DRAMA**

**(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)**

**Question 2**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:



**Brutus:**

*You have done that you should be sorry for.  
There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats;  
For I am arm'd so strong in honesty  
That they pass by me as the idle wind,  
Which I respect not. I did send to you  
For certain sums of gold, which you denied me;  
For I can raise no money by vile means:*

- (i) Where is Brutus at present? What has Cassius done which he needs to be sorry for? [1+2=3]
- (ii) Explain why Brutus says the following lines: [3]  
*"For I am arm'd so strong in honesty  
That they pass by me as the idle wind,  
Which I respect not."*
- (iii) Why did Brutus need 'certain sums of gold'? What does the line "For I can raise no money by vile means", reveal about Brutus' character? [1+2=3]
- (iv) What is Cassius' response to this accusation which Brutus makes against him? How does Cassius defend himself against this accusation? [1+2=3]
- (v) How does the quarrel between 'Brutus' and 'Cassius' finally end? How does this conflict show a contrast between the personalities of 'Brutus' and 'Cassius'? [2+2=4]

### Question 3

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Cassius:**

*This hill is far enough. Look, look, Titinius;  
Are those my tents where I perceive the fire?*

- (i) Where is Cassius at present? Why does Cassius ask Titinius the question that has been given in the above quoted lines? [1+2=3]
- (ii) What does Cassius ask Titinius to do immediately after this? [3]
- (iii) With regards to what Cassius asks Titinius to do, what does it reveal about Cassius' state of mind at that point of time? [3]
- (iv) What news does Cassius receive from Pindarus after this and what was his reaction? [2+1=3]
- (v) How does Pindarus' news lead to a tragic turn in the play and what does this incident reveal about the role of 'misjudgement' and 'fate' in determining the outcome of the battle? [2+2=4]

### SECTION C

*(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)*

#### PROSE – SHORT STORIES

**(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Short Stories and Poems)**

### Question 4

Read the following extract from Stephen Leacock's short story, 'With the Photographer' and answer the questions that follow:

... when you have done all that – keep it for yourself and your friends. They may value it. To me it is but a worthless bauble.”

- (i) Who said the above quoted lines and to whom and in what situation? [1+1+1=3]
- (ii) What had the person spoken to done to 'it' that made the speaker react this way? [3]
- (iii) What does the term 'worthless bauble' mean in this context? Why does the speaker say that 'it' was but a 'worthless bauble' to him? [1+2=3]
- (iv) What were the speaker's real intentions for wanting to click 'it'? [3]
- (v) How do the above quoted lines reflect the story's humour and underlying criticism of photography as an 'art' in Stephen Leacock's time? [4]

### Question 5

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow:

*“He was within a block of his destination when the lone car turned a corner quite suddenly and flashed a fierce white cone of light upon him.”*

- (i) Who is referred to as 'He' in the above quoted lines? What would he most dearly love to do? [1+2=3]
- (ii) Why did 'He' wisely decide to change his footwear from hard heeled shoes to sneakers? [3]
- (iii) What is referred to as the 'lone car' in the above quoted lines? What was his reaction when 'He' caught sight of the 'lone car'? [2+1=3]
- (iv) What comparison has been made between the person referred to as 'He' and a 'moth' immediately after the above quoted lines? What does this comparison highlight about the person referred to as 'He'? [2+1=3]
- (v) After 'He' is arrested by the 'lone car', how does Ray Bradbury use this incident to criticize the dangers of excessive dependence on technology and the loss of individuality in society? Discuss with reference to the story's ending. [4]

### SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

### POETRY

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Short Stories and Poems)

### Question 6

Read the following extract from Sukumar Ray's poem, 'The Power of Music' and answer the questions that follow:

*He downs his horns and charges straight, with  
bellow answ'ring bellow.  
The strains of song are tossed and whirled by  
blast of brutal violence,*

*And Bhisma Lochan grants the world the golden  
gift of silence.*

- (i) Who is referred to as 'He' in the above quoted lines and what adjective has been used by the poet, prior to these lines to describe him? What prompts him to charge straight? [1+1+1=3]
- (ii) Cite TWO reasons from the poem which show that Bhisma was passionate about his singing. Based on these reasons, what kind of a person was Bhisma, according to you? [2+1=3]
- (iii) Explain the following lines in your own words as far as possible: [3]  
*He downs his horns and charges straight, with  
bellow answ'ring bellow.  
The strains of song are tossed and whirled by  
blast of brutal violence...*
- (iv) What is the significance of the phrase 'golden gift of silence'? [3]
- (v) How does this poem blend elements of satire and fantasy to entertain the reader while conveying its critique of Bhisma Lochan? [4]

### Question 7

Read the following extract from H.W. Longfellow's poem, 'Haunted Houses' and answer the questions that follow:

*There are more guests at table than the hosts  
Invited; the illuminated hall  
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive ghosts,  
As silent as the pictures on the wall.*

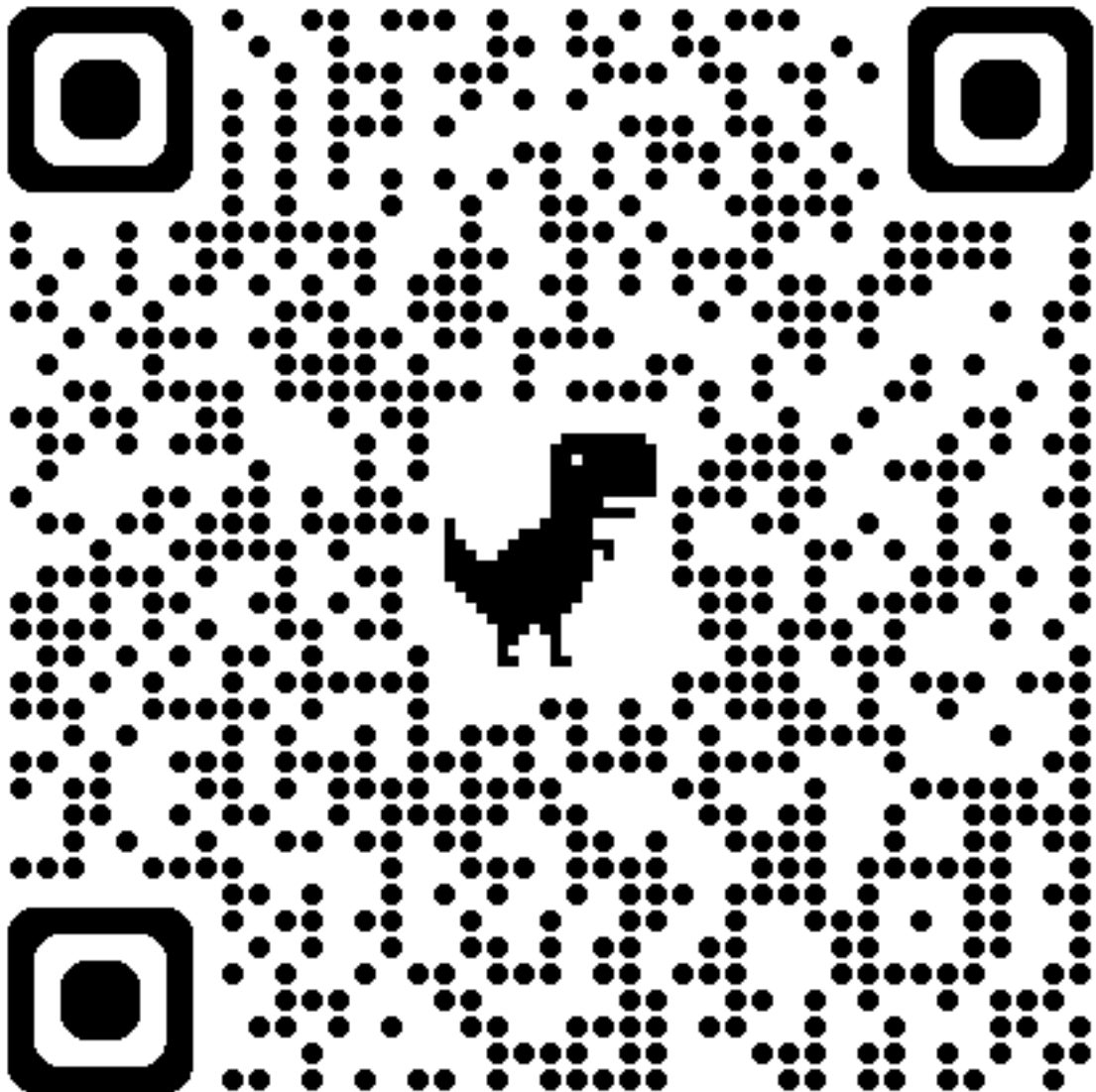
- (i) Who are the uninvited guests at the table? Why are they described as 'quiet' and 'inoffensive'? [1+2=3]
- (ii) Explain the meaning and the figure of speech used in the following line: 'As silent as the pictures on the wall'. [3]
- (iii) What effect does the contrast between the 'illuminated hall' and the silent ghosts create in the reader's mind? [3]
- (iv) Who cannot see and hear what the speaker can and why not? [1+2=3]
- (v) How does the poet's depiction of ghosts challenge the traditional view of ghosts? In your opinion, does the poet succeed in reshaping the reader's emotions from fear to acceptance when thinking about ghosts and death? [2+2=4]



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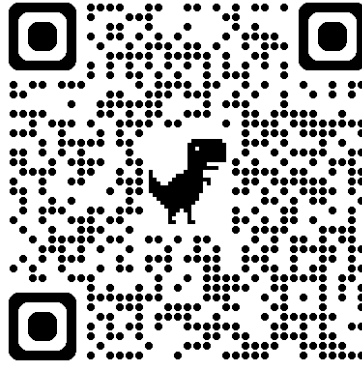


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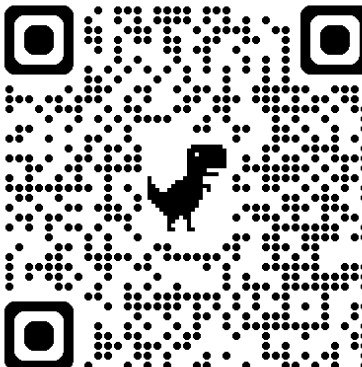
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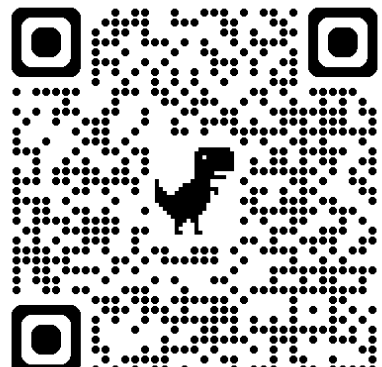
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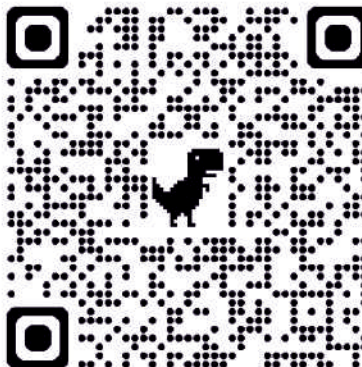
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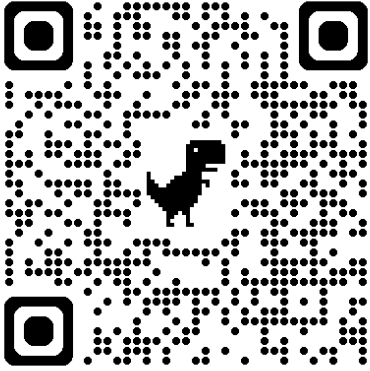
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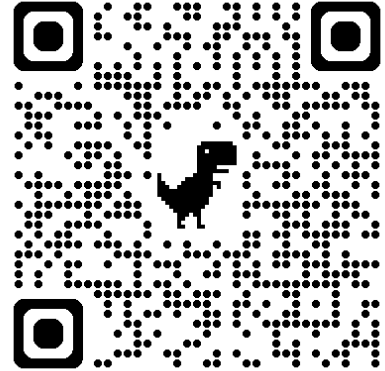
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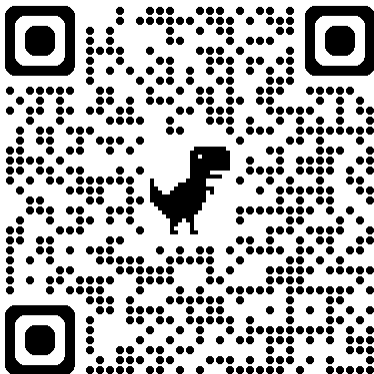
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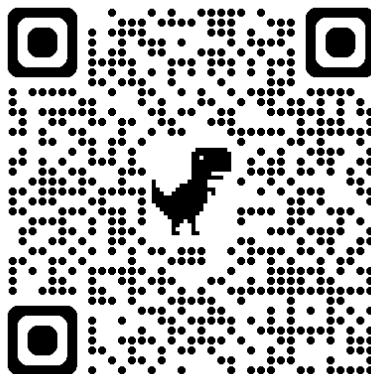
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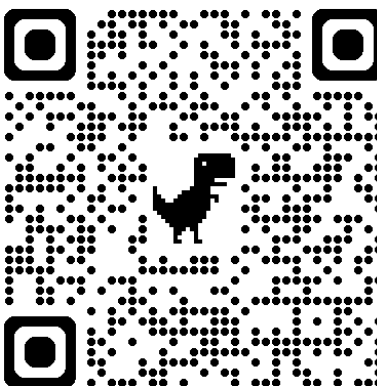
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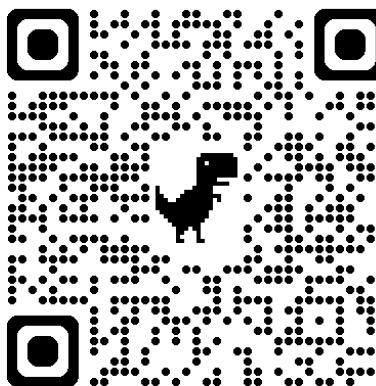
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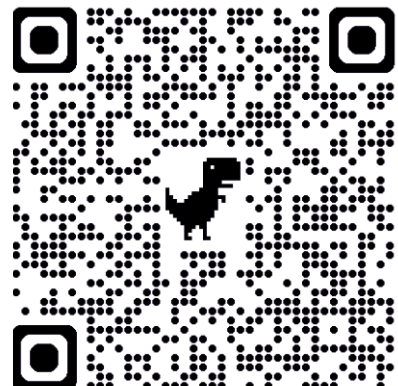
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